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EXAMINER

MILORD, MARCEAU

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2682

DATE MAILED: 10/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/921,195	Applicant(s) CRAIG JANICK	
	Examiner Marceau Milord	Art Unit 2682	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 August 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-85 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-85 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 August 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-85 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blight et al (US Patent No 6785542 B1) in view of Helot (US Patent No 6309230 B2).

Regarding claims 1-2, 7-12, Blight et al discloses a system (figs. 1 and 6) comprising: at least one device and communicating with a network (col. 5, line 49- col. 6, line 20; col. 6, lines 52-58); and a wireless transceiver base to enable communication between the device and the network via a wireless data transfer protocol (col. 7, lines 35-46; col. 8, line 45- col. 9, line 47; col. 12, lines 15-65).

However, Blight et al does not specifically disclose the feature of a wall switch device fastened to a wall switch module and communicating with a network, and the network also includes other wall switch devices.

On the other hand, Helot, from the same field of endeavor, discloses a docking station that includes mechanisms to accommodate multiple devices simultaneously. The docking station facilitates a communication link between the handheld device and the notebook computer when the two devices are docked to the docking station. The communication link allows transmission and synchronization of data between the handheld device and the notebook computer. The docking station also includes a docking cradle that can accommodate the handheld device. The docking cradle may include a power cord that is connected to a power supply, e.g., a wall socket, to provide power to recharge the batteries of the handheld device (col. 2, lines 14-62; col. 3, line 40- col. 4, line 4; col. 4, line 43- col. 5, line 36). Furthermore, the docking station is composed of two separate modules, a primary docking module 58 and a supplemental docking module 60. The primary docking module also includes the docking connector 21 and the connectors 22-30 and has the surfaces 18 and 20, so that the notebook computer can dock with the primary docking module (figs. 1, 8 and 9; col. 6, line 23- col. 7, line 10). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply the technique of Helot to the system of Blight in order to establish a connection between the palmtop-type handheld device and the notebook computer by means of docking via a docking station.

Regarding claim 3, Blight et al as modified discloses a system (figs. 1 and 6), wherein the network includes Internet (col. 7, lines 36-46; col. 8, lines 60-67).

Regarding claim 4, Blight et al as modified discloses a system (figs. 1 and 6): comprising a server that communicates with the switch device using the wireless transceiver base (col. 7, lines 36-46; col. 8, lines 41-62).

Regarding claim 5, Blight et al as modified discloses a system (figs. 1 and 6): further comprising a gateway that is connected to the server and allows communication between the wall switch device and the server using the wireless transceiver base (col. 15, line 27-54; col. 16, lines 5-32).

Regarding claim 6, Blight et al as modified discloses a system (figs. 1 and 6), wherein the wireless data transfer protocol is IEEE 802.11b wireless communication standard (col. 13, lines 11-41; col. 8, lines 45-62).

Regarding claim 13, Blight et al as modified discloses a system (figs. 1 and 6), wherein the portable electronic device is a personal digital assistant (col. 5, line 49- col. 6, line 3; col. 7, lines 36-46; col. 8, lines 45-62).

Regarding claims 14-15, 22-27, Blight et al discloses a system (figs. 1 and 6) comprising: at least one device and communicating with a network (col. 5, line 49- col. 6, line 20; col. 6, lines 52-58); and the device including a data transceiver to receive and transfer data via the power wires to the network (col. 7, lines 35-46; col. 8, line 45- col. 9, line 47; col. 12, lines 15-65).

However, Blight et al does not specifically disclose the feature of a power input coupled to the wall switch device, the power input connected to power wires, the power wires enabling communication between the wall switch device and the network; wherein the network includes other wall switch devices.

On the other hand, Helot, from the same field of endeavor, discloses a docking station that includes mechanisms to accommodate multiple devices simultaneously. The docking station facilitates a communication link between the handheld device and the notebook computer when

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the two devices are docked to the docking station. The communication link allows transmission and synchronization of data between the handheld device and the notebook computer. The docking station also includes a docking cradle that can accommodate the handheld device. The docking cradle may include a power cord that is connected to a power supply, e.g., a wall socket, to provide power to recharge the batteries of the handheld device (col. 2, lines 14-62; col. 3, line 40- col. 4, line 4; col. 4, line 43- col. 5, line 36). Furthermore, the docking station is composed of two separate modules, a primary docking module 58 and a supplemental docking module 60. The primary docking module also includes the docking connector 21 and the connectors 22-30 and has the surfaces 18 and 20, so that the notebook computer can dock with the primary docking module (figs. 1, 8 and 9; col. 6, line 23- col. 7, line 10). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply the technique of Helot to the system of Blight in order to establish a connection between the palmtop-type handheld device and the notebook computer by means of docking via a docking station.

Regarding claim 16, Blight et al as modified discloses a system (figs. 1 and 6), wherein the network includes Internet (col. 7, lines 36-46; col. 8, lines 60-67).

Regarding claim 17, Blight et al as modified discloses a system (figs. 1 and 6): further comprising a wireless transceiver base to enable communication between the wall switch device and the network via a wireless data transfer protocol (col. 8, lines 45-63; col. 12, lines 12-65).

Regarding claim 18, Blight et al as modified discloses a system (figs. 1 and 6): further comprising a server that communicates with the wall switch device using the wireless transceiver base (col. 7, lines 36-46; col. 8, lines 41-62).

Regarding claim 19, Blight et al as modified discloses a system (figs. 1 and 6): further comprising a gateway that is connected to the server and allows communication between the wall switch device and the server using the wireless transceiver base (col. 15, line 27-54; col. 16, lines 5-32).

Regarding claim 20, Blight et al as modified discloses a system (figs. 1 and 6), wherein the wireless data transfer protocol is IEEE 802.11b wireless communication standard (col. 13, lines 11-41; col. 8, lines 45-62).

Regarding claim 21, Blight et al as modified discloses a system (figs. 1 and 6), wherein the wireless data transfer protocol is Bluetooth (col. 13, lines 10-65; col. 14, lines 9-67).

Regarding claim 28, Blight et al as modified discloses a system (figs. 1 and 6), wherein the portable electronic device is a personal digital assistant (col. 5, line 49- col. 6, line 3; col. 7, lines 36-46; col. 8, lines 45-62).

Regarding claims 29-30, 36-41, Blight et al discloses a system (figs. 1 and 6) comprising: at least one device and communicating with a network (col. 5, line 49- col. 6, line 20; col. 6, lines 52-58); and a wireless transceiver base to enable communication between the power outlet device and the network via a wireless data transfer protocol (col. 7, lines 35-46; col. 8, line 45- col. 9, line 47; col. 12, lines 15-65).

However, Blight et al does not specifically disclose the feature of a power outlet device fastened to a power outlet module and communicating with a network, and the network also includes other wall switch devices.

On the other hand, Helot, from the same field of endeavor, discloses a docking station that includes mechanisms to accommodate multiple devices simultaneously. The docking station

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facilitates a communication link between the handheld device and the notebook computer when the two devices are docked to the docking station. The communication link allows transmission and synchronization of data between the handheld device and the notebook computer. The docking station also includes a docking cradle that can accommodate the handheld device. The docking cradle may include a power cord that is connected to a power supply, e.g., a wall socket, to provide power to recharge the batteries of the handheld device (col. 2, lines 14-62; col. 3, line 40- col. 4, line 4; col. 4, line 43- col. 5, line 36). Furthermore, the docking station is composed of two separate modules, a primary docking module 58 and a supplemental docking module 60. The primary docking module also includes the docking connector 21 and the connectors 22-30 and has the surfaces 18 and 20, so that the notebook computer can dock with the primary docking module (figs. 1, 8 and 9; col. 6, line 23- col. 7, line 10). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply the technique of Helot to the system of Blight in order to establish a connection between the palmtop-type handheld device and the notebook computer by means of docking via a docking station

Regarding claim 31, Blight et al as modified discloses a system (figs. 1 and 6), wherein the network includes Internet (col. 7, lines 36-46; col. 8, lines 60-67).

Regarding claim 32, Blight et al as modified discloses a system further comprising a server that communicates with the power outlet device using the wireless transceiver base (col. 7, lines 36-46; col. 8, lines 41-62).

Regarding claim 33, Blight et al as modified discloses a system further comprising a gateway that is connected to the server and allows communication between the power outlet device and the server using the wireless transceiver base (col. 15, line 27-54; col. 16, lines 5-32).

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Regarding claim 34, Blight et al as modified discloses a system, wherein the wireless data transfer protocol is IEEE 802.11b wireless communication standard (col. 13, lines 11-41; col. 8, lines 45-62).

Regarding claim 35, Blight et al as modified discloses a system, wherein the wireless data transfer protocol is BluetoothTH (col. 5, line 49- col. 6, line 3; col. 7, lines 36-46; col. 8, lines 45-62).

Regarding claim 42, Blight et al as modified discloses a system, wherein the portable electronic device is a personal digital assistant (col. 5, line 49- col. 6, line 3; col. 7, lines 36-46; col. 8, lines 45-62).

Regarding claims 43-44, 51-56, Blight et al discloses a system (figs. 1 and 6) comprising: at least one device and communicating with a network (col. 5, line 49- col. 6, line 20; col. 6, lines 52-58); each device including a data transceiver to receive and transfer data via the power wires to the network (col. 7, lines 35-46; col. 8, line 45- col. 9, line 47; col. 12, lines 15-65).

However, Blight et al does not specifically disclose the feature of power outlet device fastened over a power outlet module and communicating with a network; a power input coupled to the power outlet device, the power input connected to power wires, the power wires enabling communication between the power outlet device and the network; wherein the network includes other power outlet devices.

On the other hand, Helot, from the same field of endeavor, discloses a docking station that includes mechanisms to accommodate multiple devices simultaneously. The docking station facilitates a communication link between the handheld device and the notebook computer when

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the two devices are docked to the docking station. The communication link allows transmission and synchronization of data between the handheld device and the notebook computer. The docking station also includes a docking cradle that can accommodate the handheld device. The docking cradle may include a power cord that is connected to a power supply, e.g., a wall socket, to provide power to recharge the batteries of the handheld device (col. 2, lines 14-62; col. 3, line 40- col. 4, line 4; col. 4, line 43- col. 5, line 36). Furthermore, the docking station is composed of two separate modules, a primary docking module 58 and a supplemental docking module 60. The primary docking module also includes the docking connector 21 and the connectors 22-30 and has the surfaces 18 and 20, so that the notebook computer can dock with the primary docking module (figs. 1, 8 and 9; col. 6, line 23- col. 7, line 10). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply the technique of Helot to the system of Blight in order to establish a connection between the palmtop-type handheld device and the notebook computer by means of docking via a docking station

Regarding claim 45, Blight et al as modified discloses a system (figs. 1 and 6), wherein the network includes Internet (col. 7, lines 36-46; col. 8, lines 60-67).

Regarding claim 46, Blight et al as modified discloses a system (figs. 1 and 6): further comprising a wireless transceiver base to enable communication between the power outlet device and the network via a wireless data transfer protocol col. 5, line 49- col. 6, line 3; col. 7, lines 36-46; col. 8, lines 45-62).

Regarding claim 47, Blight et al as modified discloses a system (figs. 1 and 6): further comprising a server that communicates with the power outlet device using the wireless transceiver base (col. 7, lines 36-46; col. 8, lines 41-62).

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Regarding claim 48, Blight et al as modified discloses a system (figs. 1 and 6): further comprising a gateway that is connected to the server and allows communication between the power outlet device and the server using the wireless transceiver base (col. 15, line 27-54; col. 16, lines 5-32).

Regarding claim 49, Blight et al as modified discloses a system (figs. 1 and 6), wherein the wireless data transfer protocol is IEEE 802. 1 1b wireless communication standard (col. 13, lines 11-41; col. 8, lines 45-62).

Regarding claim 50, Blight et al as modified discloses a system (figs. 1 and 6), wherein the wireless data transfer protocol is BluetoothTH (col. 5, line 49- col. 6, line 3; col. 7, lines 36-46; col. 8, lines 45-62).

Regarding claim 57, Blight et al as modified discloses a system (figs. 1 and 6), wherein the portable electronic device is a personal digital assistant (col. 5, line 49- col. 6, line 3; col. 7, lines 36-46; col. 8, lines 45-62).

Regarding claims 58-59, 66-70, Blight et al discloses a method (figs. 1 and 6) comprising: receiving data from a network through power wires connected to a power input (col. 5, line 49- col. 6, line 20; col. 6, lines 52-58), wherein the device receiving the data via a data transceiver; and communicating data back to the network (col. 7, lines 35-46; col. 8, line 45- col. 9, line 47; col. 12, lines 15-65).

However, Blight et al does not specifically disclose the feature of a power input coupled to a wall switch device fastened to a light switch module on a wall; wherein the network includes other wall switch devices.

On the other hand, Helot, from the same field of endeavor, discloses a docking station that includes mechanisms to accommodate multiple devices simultaneously. The docking station facilitates a communication link between the handheld device and the notebook computer when the two devices are docked to the docking station. The communication link allows transmission and synchronization of data between the handheld device and the notebook computer. The docking station also includes a docking cradle that can accommodate the handheld device. The docking cradle may include a power cord that is connected to a power supply, e.g., a wall socket, to provide power to recharge the batteries of the handheld device (col. 2, lines 14-62; col. 3, line 40- col. 4, line 4; col. 4, line 43- col. 5, line 36). Furthermore, the docking station is composed of two separate modules, a primary docking module 58 and a supplemental docking module 60. The primary docking module also includes the docking connector 21 and the connectors 22-30 and has the surfaces 18 and 20, so that the notebook computer can dock with the primary docking module (figs. 1, 8 and 9; col. 6, line 23- col. 7, line 10). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply the technique of Helot to the system of Blight in order to establish a connection between the palmtop-type handheld device and the notebook computer by means of docking via a docking station.

Regarding claim 60, Blight et al as modified discloses a method (figs. 1 and 6), wherein the network is Internet (col. 7, lines 36-46; col. 8, lines 60-67).

Regarding claim 61, Blight et al as modified discloses a method (figs. 1 and 6): further comprising communicating data between the wall switch device and the network via a wireless transfer protocol using a wireless transceiver base (col. 7, lines 36-46; col. 8, lines 41-62).

Regarding claim 62, Blight et al as modified discloses a method (figs. 1 and 6): further comprising communicating data between a server and the wall switch device using the wireless transceiver base (col. 7, lines 36-46; col. 8, lines 41-62).

Regarding claim 63, Blight et al as modified discloses a method (figs. 1 and 6): further comprising communicating data between the server and the wall switch device using a gateway connected to the server and the wireless transceiver base (col. 15, line 27-54; col. 16, lines 5-32).

Regarding claim 64, Blight et al as modified discloses a method (figs. 1 and 6), wherein the wireless data transfer protocol is IEEE 802.11b wireless communication standard (col. 13, lines 11-41; col. 8, lines 45-62).

Regarding claim 65, Blight et al as modified discloses a method (figs. 1 and 6), wherein the wireless data transfer protocol is Bluetooth (col. 5, line 49- col. 6, line 3; col. 7, lines 36-46; col. 8, lines 45-62).

Regarding claim 71, Blight et al as modified discloses a method (figs. 1 and 6), wherein the portable electronic device is a personal digital assistant (col. 5, line 49- col. 6, line 3; col. 7, lines 36-46; col. 8, lines 45-62).

Regarding claims 72-73, 80-84, Blight et al discloses a method (figs. 1 and 6) comprising: receiving data from a network through power wires connected to a power input (col. 5, line 49- col. 6, line 20; col. 6, lines 52-58), the device receiving the data via a data transceiver; and communicating data back to the network (col. 7, lines 35-46; col. 8, line 45- col. 9, line 47; col. 12, lines 15-65).

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However, Blight et al does not specifically disclose the feature of power input coupled to a power outlet device fastened to a power outlet module on a wall; wherein the network includes other power outlet devices.

On the other hand, Helot, from the same field of endeavor, discloses a docking station that includes mechanisms to accommodate multiple devices simultaneously. The docking station facilitates a communication link between the handheld device and the notebook computer when the two devices are docked to the docking station. The communication link allows transmission and synchronization of data between the handheld device and the notebook computer. The docking station also includes a docking cradle that can accommodate the handheld device. The docking cradle may include a power cord that is connected to a power supply, e.g., a wall socket, to provide power to recharge the batteries of the handheld device (col. 2, lines 14-62; col. 3, line 40- col. 4, line 4; col. 4, line 43- col. 5, line 36). Furthermore, the docking station is composed of two separate modules, a primary docking module 58 and a supplemental docking module 60. The primary docking module also includes the docking connector 21 and the connectors 22-30 and has the surfaces 18 and 20, so that the notebook computer can dock with the primary docking module (figs. 1, 8 and 9; col. 6, line 23- col. 7, line 10). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply the technique of Helot to the system of Blight in order to establish a connection between the palmtop-type handheld device and the notebook computer by means of docking via a docking station

73. The method of claim 72 wherein the network includes other power outlet devices.

Regarding claim 74, Blight et al as modified discloses a method (figs. 1 and 6), wherein the network is Internet (col. 7, lines 36-46; col. 8, lines 60-67).

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Regarding claim 75, Blight et al as modified discloses a method (figs. 1 and 6): further comprising communicating data between the power outlet device and the network via a wireless transfer protocol using a wireless transceiver base (col. 7, lines 36-46; col. 8, lines 41-62).

Regarding claim 76, Blight et al as modified discloses a method (figs. 1 and 6): further comprising communicating data between a server and the power outlet device using the wireless transceiver base (col. 7, lines 36-46; col. 8, lines 41-62).

Regarding claim 77, Blight et al as modified discloses a method (figs. 1 and 6): further comprising communicating data between the server and the power outlet device using a gateway connected to the server and the wireless transceiver base (col. 15, line 27-54; col. 16, lines 5-32).

Regarding claim 78, Blight et al as modified discloses a method (figs. 1 and 6), wherein the wireless data transfer protocol is IEEE 802.11b wireless communication standard (col. 13, lines 11-41; col. 8, lines 45-62).

Regarding claim 79, Blight et al as modified discloses a method (figs. 1 and 6), wherein the wireless data transfer protocol is BluetoothTH (col. 5, line 49- col. 6, line 3; col. 7, lines 36-46; col. 8, lines 45-62).

Regarding claim 85, Blight et al as modified discloses a method (figs. 1 and 6), wherein the portable electronic device is a personal digital assistant (col. 5, line 49- col. 6, line 3; col. 7, lines 36-46; col. 8, lines 45-62).

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Janik US Patent No 6518724 B2 discloses a wall switch device and a power outlet device

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Wang US Patent No 6701394 B2 discloses an information-exchanging device that includes two separate housings, which are, mounted two connectors for electrically connecting to two handy personal processing devices such as PDAs or cellular phones.

Kates et al US Patent No 6191552 B1 discloses an external universal battery charging apparatus which can include external universal battery charger circuitry having at least one universal battery charger circuitry input and one universal battery charger circuitry output

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marceau Milord whose telephone number is 703-306-3023. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vivian C. Chin can be reached on 703-308-6739. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MARCEAU MILORD

Marceau Milord
Examiner
Art Unit 2682


MARCEAU MILORD
PRIMARY EXAMINER